

C O N F I D E N T I A L

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

23 September 1955

Present

MEMBERS: John Lacey, State  
LTJG William C. Nyce, Navy  
Capt. Thomas H. Rivenbark, Air Force (for Maj.  
Neumann)

Consultant:

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1. The 55th meeting convened at 1400 hours, and the minutes of the 54th meeting were approved.

2. The Chairman distributed to the members collated statements of (a) subject categories not now being covered but which are desired and (b) current program coverage keyed to DCID 4/4 as a base for the program reviews which will commence with the next meeting.

3. Translation Service Problem

State: Mr. Lacey presented State Department's problem as follows:

"The intelligence component of State is short in linguistic capability and the capacity for training linguists. FDD fills some of the need through exploitation but there is still a great need for verbatim translation of certain texts. Much of our requirement in Sociological, Political and Economic/Financial fields is not easy to summarize and exploitation is not always satisfactory. This need has been accentuated during the past year by the growing psychological warfare program and the growth of interest in expansion of international Communism outside the Bloc. We feel that the Committee should consider FDD and other resources and query whether they could undertake more of this type of work. Our contention is that while this translation is time-consuming the effort is not lost, as it is of lasting value. Communist China for six years has been stabilizing a new dynasty. During its development many laws and decrees and instructions have been issued which represent policy

C O N F I D E N T I A L

for a long time to come. One day these will be no longer available. I hope we can consider all translation facilities and recommend what effort should be set aside for translation service for the IAC."

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In answer to [ ] question as to how items would be selected for translation, Mr. Lacey said, "in the same way FDD selects material for exploitation now."

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[ ] asked Mr. Lacey how much of this material he estimated would be unclassified. Mr. Lacey reckoned it would be about 75%.

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[ ] suggested that this could be done on contract and asked the Chairman whether it is legally possible or desirable that FDD act as a central contracting agent.

The Chairman was not sure although there have been some arrangements for the transfer of funds between agencies. He thought, however, that if the Committee wished to consider such an arrangement there should be a ruling on the DCI level as to whether this would amount to an extension of NSCID-16 or a new type of central service.

Navy: Lt. Nyce stated that most of the translation Navy needs is handled internally. It is slow but adequate at this time. They have enough linguists among the substantive analysts to do a good screening job and in a pinch Navy can fall back on FDD.

Air Force: Capt. Rivenbark said, "Our situation is the same as Navy's. We are happy with current facilities. FDD helps with rare languages and very technical material in which we have no coverage."

NSA: Dr. Ward indicated that NSA has no particular interest in the type of service outlined by Mr. Lacey. Specific requirements served on FDD seem to cover the needs.

The Chairman summed up as follows:

With the facts we now have on the problem perhaps we can solve it as we go through the reviews by determining whether more manpower can be directed to State's needs, where needs for selective translation exists, and perhaps shift manpower for that purpose or find other satisfactory remedies.

4. Agenda for the next meeting will be review of the programs on the USSR and East European Satellites. The next meeting will be held on Friday, 7 October 1955, in Room 2125 M Building.

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